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Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 03892 100818Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15
NSC-05 PA-01 USIA-06 /061 W
----------051141 110935Z /23
R 100750Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5991

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, JA
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: ON THE EVE OF THE WASHINGTON TALKS

REF: (A) STATE 61352 (B) STATE 58727

SUMMARY: DURING PAST TWO WEEKS JAPANESE PRESS HAS REPEATEDLY SURFACED IDEA OF ARRIVING AT SOME SORT OF PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT DURING NEXT ROUND AND SHELVING REVISION FOR THE TIME BEING; REACTION TO MARCH 3 CAB ORDER AGAINST JAL HAS BEEN MUTED. GOJ WILL PUSH HARD FOR AN INTERIM AGREEMENT IN ORDER TO AVOID A GREATER CONFRONTATION. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS, THE JAPANESE PRESS HAS REPEATEDLY SURFACED THE IDEA THAT TWO SIDES MAY HAVE TO COME TO SOME SORT OF "PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT" DURING NEXT ROUND AND SHELVE "REVISION OF THE TEXT" OF THE PRESENT AGREEMENT FOR THE TIME BEING. MAJOR FACTORS BEHIND THIS ARE SAID TO BE THE ACTUAL PHYSICAL CONSTRAINTS AT NARITA AND A GROWING "DIPLOMATIC JUDGMENT" THAT AN INCREASE IN TENSION SHOULD BE AVOIDED PRIOR TO THE UPCOMING FUKUDA/CARTER SUMMIT TALKS.

2. IN THIS SAME VEIN, PRESS REACTION TO THE CAB'S
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MARCH 3 ORDER AGAINST JAL CARGO FLIGHTS HAS BEEN MUTED. GENERAL CONSENSUS IS THAT U.S. SIDE, BY THIS ACTION, HAS ONCE AGAIN SEIZED THE INITIATIVE AND THAT JAPAN WILL AGAIN HAVE TO WAIT FOR ANY MAJOR REVISION. THERE IS NO BITTERNESS OF TONE HOWEVER AND MARCH 9 NIHON KEIZAI REPORT CONTAINS SOMEWHAT OPTIMISTIC COMMENT, SUPPOSEDLY MADE BY MOT OFFICIAL, THAT EVEN

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LATEST USCAB ORDER POSES NO REAL CRISIS SINCE IT
WOULD NOT BE EFFECTIVE UNTIL MID-APRIL AND TWO
SIDES MAY WELL HAVE RESOLVED ISSUES BY THEN.

3. COMMENT: DURING MARCH 9 DIET SESSION TRANSPORT
MINISTER REPORTEDLY PROMISED TO PURSUE TALKS WITH
"RESOLVE" WHILE PRIME MINISTER INDICATED IT IS "BETTER
TO SETTLE NEGOTIATIONS ASAP TO AVOID CONFUSION."
TWO APPROACHES NEED NOT BE MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE. WE
BELIEVE GOJ WILL PUSH HARD AND BARGAIN TOUGH FOR AN
INTERIM AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD AVOID A GREATER CONFRONT-
ATION.
SHERMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, AVIATION AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Litigation History:
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